

US Patent Application Serial No. 09/921,022  
Amendment Dated 11/29/04  
Reply to Office Action Dated 9/03/2004

### **Remarks**

Claims 1, 3-4, 6-7, 12, 14-15 and 17-21 are pending in the application and are presented for reconsideration. Claims 1, 3, 6-7, 12, 14 and 17-21 have been amended. Claims 2, 5, 8-11, 13 and 16 have been canceled. Claims 4 and 15 remain in the application unchanged. No new matter has been added.

### ***Status of Claims***

Claims 1, 3-4, 7, 12, 14-15, and 18-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Gotou (U.S. Pat. No. 5,747,854).

Claims 2, 5-6, 13 and 16-17 are objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claim, but are deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

### ***Response***

Claim 1 has been amended to include all of the limitations of base claim 1 and dependent claim 2. Previously presented claim 2 is therefore canceled.

Claim 3 has been amended to include all of the limitations of base claim 3 and dependent claim 5. Previously presented claim 5 is therefore canceled. Claim 6 is amended to depend from claim 3 rather than now canceled claim 5.

Claim 7 has been amended to include the novel features of amended claims 1 and 3.

Claim 12 has been amended to include all of the limitations of base claim 12 and dependent claim 13. Previously presented claim 13 is therefore canceled.

Claim 14 has been amended to include all of the limitations of base claim 14 and dependent claim 16. Previously presented claim 16 is therefore canceled. Claim 17 is amended to depend from claim 14 rather than now canceled claim 16.

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Claim 18 has been amended to include the novel features of amended claims 12 and 14.

Claim 19 has been amended to include the novel features of amended claim 3, additionally requiring the switchably conductive devices to be field effect transistor (FET) devices.

Claim 20 has been amended to include the novel features of amended claim 1, additionally requiring the switchably conductive devices to be field effect transistor (FET) devices.

Claim 21 has been amended to include the novel features of amended claim 7, additionally requiring the switchably conductive devices to be field effect transistor (FET) devices.

The prior art of record fails to disclose or suggest the inclusion of one or more switchably conductive devices each having different threshold voltages for reducing the slew rate of the output signal as recited in claims 1, 3-4, 6-7, 12, 14-15 and 17-18. The prior art of record further fails to disclose or suggest the inclusion of one or more FET devices each having different threshold voltages for reducing the slew rate of the output signal as recited in claims 19, 20 and 21.

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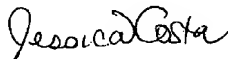
### Conclusion

In view of the amendments to the claims made herein, the Applicant respectfully submits that each of claims 1, 3-4, 6-7, 12, 14-15 and 17-21 are now in position for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this amendment, or should the Examiner believe that it would further prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jessica Costa, Reg. No. 41,065

The Law Offices of Jessica Costa, PC  
P.O. Box 460  
Crozet, VA 22932-0460  
(434) 823-2232  
(434) 823-2242 (fax)